

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, line 3, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the title “ELASTOMERIC COMPOSITION AND TREAD BAND AND TYRE INCLUDING THE ELASTOMERIC COMPOSITION” and prior to the section heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Page 1, line 3, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the section heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”:

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP02/04455, filed April 23, 2002, at the European Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.